# Christ: The very foundation of faith

**By WILIAM L. TRIMYER**
**Christ: The Foundation Of Faith**
Lesson for May 31, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Hebrews 12:1-13
**Introduction**

Life's pilgrimage is often endured through the inspiration of others and by our own sense of faith and determination. The experience of others often serves as a "shot in the arm" to encourage us on in our journey.

We all know special people whose life and words have been an inspiration to us. Sometimes it frankly helps to know that someone else has been "tried in the fire" and has survived. Such inspiration gives us a sense of hopefulness about ourselves.

My father has been an inspiration to me and to countless others. He is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, the result of a wound he received during World War II. Following the war he was electrocuted and lost both of his legs above the knees. In spite of these and other setbacks, he drives a car, shingles his house, and builds. His sense of faith, determination, and love for life urges him on in spite of his limitations.

Christ, too, is an inspiration to all who believe and follow him. He is the author, foundation, and finisher of our faith. By his life, crucifixion, death, and resurrection, he inspires faith and hope in a world where despair and unbelief abound.

**Illustrators of the Faith [Heb. 11:1-40]**

It will be helpful to briefly look at some of the biblical illustrators of the faith. The author of Hebrews takes a look back through the Old Testament at some of the people whom God used to inspire others. The list includes such giants as Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. But the list also includes such unknown characters as Abel, Samson, and Rahab. These people are mentioned because of their willingness to face a hostile world with a deep sense of faith and dependence upon God.

**Christ the Great Illustrator [Heb. 12:1-4]**

The author of Hebrews writes like he is in the center of a stadium or sports arena. The "cloud of witnesses" refers to the host of faithful troubadours compiled from the Old Testament. These ordinary people became extra-ordinary because they demonstrated the power of faith in the face of difficult times.

These who have completed their "race" and attained their "goal" become inspirational illustrators for us in our race towards our goal. Our race is made easier by the fact that these earlier witnesses become signs of hope for weary runners.

Of course, the greatest illustrator we have is that of Christ himself. Ultimately, our attention must be focused upon him and his work upon the cross. Our greatest inspiration lies in the life and example of him who went the last mile in his struggle against evil.

**Disciplined Disciples [Heb. 12:5-13]**

Any worthy goal in life requires a certain amount of discipline. To become an accomplished pianist one must commit himself to daily practice. To become a long-distance runner one must be willing to run almost daily. To face life and all the possibilities of trouble and defeat one must be ready to hang in there when the going gets tough.

To follow Christ in discipleship one must practice discipline. The word disciple implies the notion of discipline. Life is never lived without hardships and painful experiences; yet, these experiences can make us better or bitter persons, depending upon our attitude. Trouble need not be perceived only as a burden inflicted upon us, for troubles may also become a highway to God.

Life was never meant to be a "Promise Lane" or a "Bowl of Cherries." God's design for his children includes a certain amount of discipline. This is not to imply that God inflicts hardship upon us to teach us lessons in discipline. God is not out to blast us but to bless us!

And blessing comes to us in strange disguises and through odd events. Just when we least expect it, God may move us ahead two notches through some event we thought would bring about our destruction. God can use the circumstantial conflicts of the human drama to bring about growth and positive change.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Ill. (WLYP).

## *Bible & Daily Living*

**MRS. RUBY MOSES was guest speaker at the Oakville Home and Garden Club meeting on May 12. She spoke on "Flowers in the Home" and demonstrated by making some lovely arrangements. Her program was enjoyed very much by all. There were 14 members and one visitor present. Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Alise Drinkard, Mrs. Dot Wilkerson, Mrs. Berneta Godsey, and Mrs. Margaret Hillsman. The next meeting will be on June 9 at 1:30 p.m. at Oakville School. The program will be on "Food Preservation."**

# SS meeting planned

The local Southern States Cooperative annual membership meeting for Coleman and Son, Inc. will be held July 22.

This decision was made by local farmer-members at a recent annual meeting conference held May 12.

Among the features of this year's session will be reports on operations of both Southern States Cooperative and the local agency for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1981. The Souther States report will focus on the need for agriculture and cooperatives to voice their views in the political arena.

In addition there will be elections, or reports on elections and other business matters.

Attending the planning session were Dan and Roland Coleman co-manager of Coleman and Sons, Jr. and G. Maxey Slater a member of Southern States Cooperative's regional headquarters staff at Richmond.

Also at the session were the following members of the local board and Farm Home Advisory Committee: B. J. Lucado, Boyd Thompson, Hunt P. Hamilton, Mrs. E. E. Martin, Mrs. Frederick L. Thomas.

# Chestnut Grove News

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Repass and Mrs. T.N. Saul visited Mrs. Janie Repass at Blackstone.

Mrs. Robert Metcalfe, Jr. and Mary Ann of Virginia Beach, Wayne Cook of Richmond were weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. W.T.Cook. Edward Cook and Kenneth of Prospect had supper with the family.

Kathi Morris spent the weekend with Sarah Gager of Farmville. Amy Waycaster of Farmville spent Sunday with Becky Morris.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Morris on the birth of a son born Saturday.

The James River Baptist Association met Thursday, May 14 at Oak Grove Baptist Church in Cumberland County. Among those attending were Mrs. W. T. Cook, Mrs. Bob Bryan and the Rev. John Mann, Sr. from the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church; Mrs. Dott Bryan from Maple Grove Baptist Church; Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Smith, Mrs. Ben Ballowe, Mrs. Jack Manis, Mrs. Kemper Beasley, Sr. Mrs. Earl Morris and Rev. Glenn Coleman from the Concord Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Beasley and Cal of Troutville were weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Kemper M. Beasley, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Branch at Buckingham.

Mrs. Lucy Glover is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital. We hope she will have a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morris and Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris attended a Sawmill and Log Machinery Show in Lynchburg Saturday.

Mrs. Alice Senger weekend guest were Mrs. Henson Pope, Debbie and Mike of Abingdon. They all visited Frank Pope in Southside Community Hospital of Farmville.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Williams and Ruth Beasley accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. David Woodall and family of Farmville spent the weekend in Beckley, West Virginia with Bennie's mother, Mrs. Nona Williams who was having a birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Senger and family of Crewe were Saturday night visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Alice Senger.

We are sorry that Mrs. Ester Forbes is not so well, we hope she soon will feel better.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Harris entertained Sunday afternoon with a cookout for triple birthdays. The honorees were H. Flood Harris, Faye Harris and Adam Harris' first birthday. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Pete F. Harris, David Bryan, Shelia Tolbert, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Cook, Aaron Harris, Mr. and Mrs. H. Flood Harris of Green Bay, Mrs. Kline Hill and two boys from Richmond and Mrs. Pete Senger of Curdsville.

Mrs. Frank Sheppard of Cumberland visited Thursday in the C. Henson Morris home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Morris and Jason Waycaster were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Ms. B. N. O'Brien.

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## *FHA plans banquet*

The Future Homemakers of America Senior Chapter at Appomattox County High School is planning the annual Parent-Member Banquet.

The dinner will be held in the school cafeteria on May 26 at 6:30 p.m. All members are invited and asked to bring a covered dish.

The program will be the installation of new officers for the 1981-1982 school year.

All former officers and members are also invited to attend.

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